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SPECIAL REPORT

Foreign Media Reaction

September 2, 1983

DOWNING OF SOUTH KOREAN PASSENGER PLANE BY USSR

Summary

Media around the world reacted with headline expressions of revulsion and condemnation to the Soviet shooting down of a South Korean passenger plane and the death of 269 people.

President Reagan's and Secretary of State Shultz's reaction to the incident received extensive coverage in many capitals.

Typical of West European headlines were "Massacre in the Sky" (London Daily Mail), "Murder in the Skies" (La Repubblica of Rome) and "Prompt Indignation From White House" (Le Matin of Paris).

Electronic media in Western Europe led the way with extensive coverage last night of Secretary of State Shultz's press conference. Some papers carried his remarks in their entirety on page one. The press conference led some observers, such as a correspondent for Rome's GR-1 radio and a writer for Milan's prestigious Corriere della Sera, to characterize the U.S. reaction as "prudent" and "restrained."

At the same time, commentators and editorial writers in many places saw the incident as "plunging" East-West relations to their lowest ebb since the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and even since the Cuban missile crisis.

Some editorial writers saw the incident as "ruining detente" and putting the arms reduction talks in jeopardy. In Bonn, conservative Die Welt wondered if "the Kremlin rulers are still seriously interested in an understanding on the problem of arms..."

Still other observers agreed with the conservative Quotidien de Paris that "when a nation reaches that extreme" of attacking a passenger plane "it casts off its mask and shows its true face...that of a barbarous nation."

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WESTERN EUROPE

BRITAIN

"We React With Revulsion"

Headlines in London today said "Shultz Press Conference: 'We React With Revulsion to This Attack'" (Times), "Reagan Calls in Security Team After Jet Disaster" and "Moscow Says It Went to Help" (Guardian), "Revulsion at Attack" (Daily Telegraph), "Shultz Accuses Moscow--'We React With Revulsion to This Attack'" (Financial Times), "Massacre in the Sky" (Daily Mail) and "Midair Murder by Reds" (Sun).

Shultz Press Conference Dominated Electronic Media

In London, Secretary Shultz's press conference dominated all television and radio news bulletins last night and this morning. All bulletins broadcast most, if not all, of the Shultz statement. This morning's news program led with the report that President Reagan is returning to Washington.

"U.S.-Soviet Relations Set to Plunge to New Low"

The independent London Times front-paged the text of the Shultz press conference. The paper's lead story said, "Soviet and American leaders were facing a new crisis today....President Reagan is returning to Washington from holiday in California and President Andropov was believed to have cut short his holiday to return to Moscow. U.S.-Soviet relations looked set to plunge to their lowest point since the invasion of Afghanistan."

"Storm Over Plane Will Wreck Hopes of Thaw in Relations"

Conservative Daily Telegraph's lead story said, "Diplomats in Washington consider that the storm over the airliner's destruction will wreck recent hopes of a thaw in East-West relations and badly damage the Kremlin's 'peace' campaign."

In an editorial the same paper said, "The shooting down, confirmed as fact by the ever cautious and professional Mr. George Shultz, is a crime, simply and categorically that...

"The President and Mr. Shultz should ignore all the temptations of feebleness. If they wanted proof that in no particular can the Soviets be trusted to behave like even tangential members of civilization, they have it."

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Incident "Sank East-West Relations Into Crisis"

Today's nationalistic Daily Mail said the incident "sank East-West relations into crisis....Pentagon sources said that the Russians established that the Korean plane was a civilian airliner and then deliberately destroyed it..."

In an editorial, the paper said, "The Russians' apparently ruthless action...should serve as a sharp reminder to those in Britain who never cease harping on the peaceful intentions of the USSR..."

"It Was Murder on a Grand Scale"

An editorial in the sensationalistic Sun declared, "It was murder and murder on a grand scale. We must renounce forever the willful theories of the CND (peace demonstrators) that we can strip ourselves of our defenses before treating with the Communist empire."

FRANCE

"Comrade Strangelove"

Paris television last night led with the plane incident and Secretary Shultz's press conference. The story dominated all front pages today.

Headlines said "Comrade Strangelove" (Liberation), "Prompt Indignation from White House" (Le Matin), "260 Victims (in red ink)" (Quotidien de Paris), "USSR Owes Explanation to World" (Figaro), "269 Passengers Assassinated in Midair" (France-Soir) and "French Government Demands Explanation--U.S. Quickly Sends Five F-15s to North of Japan" (Communist Humanite).

"Nothing Can Excuse Deliberate Assassination"

Conservative Figaro said, "Nothing can excuse the deliberate assassination perpetrated in midair....There are ways to reason with a suspect aircraft and to force it to land. Numerous precedents exist.

"The insolent explanation of the incident furnished by TASS only underlines the obnoxious character of the crime.

"President Reagan figures the Soviet Union owes an explanation to the world. We are part of that world..."

"No Apology...Not the Slightest Sensitivity"

Leftist Liberation said, "One will note that the Soviet leaders, more than 24 hours after the plane was shot down, still were not recognizing the facts, had made no apology to the families of the victims, not the slightest sensitivity...

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"This characterizes the USSR...more eloquently than any speeches..."

"USSR Shows Its True Face"

Conservative Quotidien judged that "Whatever the motives, when a nation reaches this extreme it casts off its mask and shows its true face, its profound nature. It shows it is a barbarous nation..."

ITALY

"Shultz: 'We Are Horrified'"

Headlines included "Grave Charge from Washington--Sudden Crisis in Detente Process" (Corriere della Sera), "Murder in the Skies--Strangelove at Work. Shultz: We Are Horrified" (La Repubblica), "Attack Called Deliberate and Unjustified by Shultz" (Il Giornale), "Russia Accused of Massacre" (Il Tempo) and "Moscow Talks Only of Intercepting in Its Airspace" (Communist l'Unita).

"U.S. Is Showing Restraint"

New York correspondent Antonello Marescalchi reported on left-leaning GR-1 radio this morning that the United States "is showing restraint and gives evidence it does not want to impair the negotiating process."

Milan's centrist Corriere della Sera said in a lead editorial that "even if the plane had violated Soviet airspace, this is not enough to justify what happened.

"In these last few hours the hope for a resumption of detente may be completely ruined..."

"Prudent Stance of U.S. State Department"

New York correspondent Ugo Stille wrote in the same paper, "Shultz's decision to show up in person in the press room of the State Department is an indication of the seriousness of the event...

"The hawks in Washington are already (at work) to underline that the attack confirms the impossibility and uselessness of any 'detente' with Moscow.

"But the prudent stance of the State Department aims at preventing emotional reaction from compromising the negotiating process with the USSR, particularly on disarmament..."

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"Strangelove at Work"

Leftist, influential La Repubblica featured an editorial titled "Strangelove at Work" and observed that the incident will have "dire consequences... on East-West relations and particularly on the Geneva negotiations.

"The Secretary of State, in his emotion and concern, has prudently ruled out direct responsibility of the Soviet Government in the event. But this caution does not change the terms of the problem. And the problem is the nature of the order given once and for all to the Soviet military apparatus and its incomparable inflexibility."

"A Deliberate Mass Murder"

Washington correspondent Marino de Medici wrote in today's conservative Il Tempo of Rome, "A deliberate mass murder. There is no other word to define the cold, ruthless order given to the pilot of the Soviet MIG which was in visual contact with the airplane..."

"Obsession With Security Makes Us Insecure"

Communist l'Unita of Rome asserted that "the downing of the plane on the basis of ruthless defense of airspace...would be an unjustifiable episode...

"The tension and nervousness of the international situation...must have reached a very high degreee if airspace violations or the loss of an air route caused such reckless and unexplainable reactions.

"This international tension...the obsession with security that becomes a stockpiling of weapons, makes us live in insecurity..."

WEST GERMANY

"No Use Talking Peace"

Conservative Frankfurter Allgemeine said today, "There is no use talking peace if one always doubts the basic peacefulness of others and resorts to shooting whenever an aircraft gets off course..."

"Is Kremlin Still Interested in Understanding on Arms Negotiations?"

An editorial in today's conservative Die Welt of Bonn maintained that "the coldbloodedness of the crime gives rise to the question whether the Kremlin rulers still are seriously interested in an understanding on the problem of arms reduction.

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"The United States has adequately reacted to this incident, which is one of the most serious since the Cuban missile crisis. Washington, obviously, does not preclude serious consequences. Secretary Shultz asked the ambassadors of NATO countries to discuss the situation with him..."

"Convincing Evidence of Mass Murder"

Pro-Christian Democratic Rheinische Post of Duesseldorf said the incident was "unprecedented in the history of aviation. There is no excuse for it. convincing evidence of this mass murder was available last night. It made the Kremlin rulers speechless for hours."

"Why Has USSR Dropped Mask of Civilized Nation?"

Pro-Christian Democratic Frankfurter Neue Presse observed, "The coincidence is macabre, but it apparently is not just coincidence: on anti-war day commemorating the outbreak of World War II, the USSR coldbloodedly shot down a civilian aircraft carrier with 269 passengers aboard...

"The question now is why the USSR dropped its mask of a civilized, peace-loving big power at such a critical moment of East-West disarmament negotiations.

"Until the opposite is proved, one can assume only that this was a calculated act to impress other countries and to make them afraid of Soviet readiness to fight..."

In West Berlin, independent Tagesspiegel held, "The fate of the Korean airliner...was no tragedy caused by a chain of errors, misunderstanding or by an act of providence. It was simply caused by human meanness..."

NORWAY

Moscow Correspondent First Uses, Then Drops U.S. "Allegations"

The shooting down of the South Korean airliner was top story on radio and TV last night and this morning and received very heavy play in the press today.

TV news twice last night carried actualities of Secretary Shultz's statement, plus extensive reports from Washington and Tokyo.

Norwegian radio and TV's Moscow correspodent in his first reports last night talked about U.S. "allegations," but later dropped the word, focusing instead on the absence of Soviet media coverage of the incident.

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"There Is No Excuse for Such an Act"

In electronic media, Prime Minister Kaare Willoch was quoted as saying that "only the strongest words can be used in our reaction to those responsible for this."

Foreign Minister Svenn Stray was cited as stating that "if the American information is correct--and unfortunately there is no reason to doubt it is correct--the Norwegian Government will condemn what has happened.

"There is no excuse for such an act. This is one of the most serious violations of all the agreements which have been signed by the USSR. The Norwegian Government is also concerned over the effect of this matter on the international situation."

TV news reported that the chairman of the Norwegian Labor Party said: "This is a grotesque act and a serious attack on accepted principles of international conduct." Defense Minister Anders C. Sjaastad said, "This is shocking. There can be absolutely no excuse for shooting down an airliner."

"Entire World Condemns USSR"

Headlines in Oslo today included "U.S. Considers Sanctions" and "Soviet Union Assumes No Responsbility" and "Kremlin in a Jam, Admits Nothing" (conservative Aftenposten), "Entire World Condemns USSR," "This Is How It Happened: Coldblooded Cold Murder," "Norwegian Pilot: Incredible" and "Controversial U.S Politician Killed" (sensationalist liberal Dagbladet), "Montrous Act (Labor Party affiliated Arbeiderbladet) and "This Is Inexcusable" (Christian Peoples Party Vaart Land).

DENMARK

"Deeply Shocked World Vents Fury at Soviet Union"

All Copenhagen dailies, national television and radio gave wide coverage last night and this morning to the tragedy. Banner headlines described the world as shocked. Danish television last night led its newscast with a complete transmission of Secretary Shultz's press conference statement.

Headlines today included "Security Council to Convene--U.S. Strongly Condemns Brutal Shooting Down" (Berlingske Tidende), "Deeply Shocked World Vents Fury at Soviet Union. No Explanation Can Excuse Shooting Down of Passenger Plane" (Aktuelt) and "In Coldblood--269 Civilians Shot to Death by Russian Missile" (B.T.).

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"Appalling Tragedy Without Parallel in Times of Peace"

Conservative Berlingske Tidende in a editorial today said, "The shooting down of the Korean airliner is an appalling tragedy so inhumane that it appears without parallel in times of peace...Nothing can justify such behavior and conduct by the Soviet air force...

"The Soviet Union's attitude is unjustifiable and it cannot fail to have a negative effect on recent attempts to build confidence in the strained relations between East and West."

Conservative Jyllands-Posten quoted Foreign Minister Uffe Ellemann-Jensen as saying, "It is a very alarming and quite unbelievable incident...The Danish Government deeply regrets the great loss of humman life."

"Russians Committed Tragic and Cruel Deed"

Former Foreign Minister Kjeld Olsen (Social Democrat) was cited by Ekstra-Bladet: "If the information received so far is correct, then the Russians have committed a tragic and cruel deed which is completely unforgivable.

"But this must not make us change attitudes in our opposition to nuclear armaments. It is mainly a question of survival. Therefore the Social Democratic Party will not change in its attitude toward missile deployloyment."

SWEDEN

"Will Throw a Shadow Over INF Talks at Decisive Point"

Extensive coverage was given last night and this morning by Swedish media to the shooting down of the South Korean plane. Consensus was that this was an appalling act by the Soviets which will affect relations between the United States and the USSR.

TV Channel 2's foreign editor said, "The shooting down of an unarmed airliner is an unparalleled crime. No excuses can be made, even if the aircraft trespassed into Soviet territory....The shooting down will throw a shadow over the INF talks which have now reached a decisive point...

"The Reagan Adminstration has described the Soviet Union as an irresponsible, power-hungry and threatening state. Advocates of that point of view will use this incident as evidence of the correctness of their point of view."

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"International Consequences May Become Serious"

Headlines today included "Swede Among the Passengers," (Svenska Dagbladet) and "U.S. Raging Against Soviet Union" and "Jumbo Jet Obliterated by Russian Missile Attack" (Dagens Nyheter).

Conservative Svenska Daglbadet in an editorial today said, "The Soviet shooting down of the South Korean airliner with 269 people aboard is shocking.

"International consequences of this tragic incident may become serious unless the Soviet Union satisfactorily explains how this tragic incident could have happened."

NETHERLANDS

"A Horrible and Unprecedented Act of Terror"

Conservative Telegraaf in a front-page editorial today said, "The shooting ...represents a horrible and unprecedented act of terror and is witness of an incredible cynicism.

"This Russian crime is not only disgusting, it is also frightening that the Soviet military system reacts so crudely and violently to something which clearly did not present any threat."

"Parliamentary Delegation Better Reconsider Its Mission to Moscow"

Leftist Volksrant in an editorial headlined "Baffling" today asked, "What could for God's sake be the reason for shooting down a non-military airplane that apparently entered Soviet space because of a navigation mistake or failure and killing 269 passengers?

"A panic reaction because of the nearby presence of military installations? A conscious act to demonstrate Russian irresistablilty? Really, there is no explanation that would fit except the word baffling.

"If Moscow does not offer a plausible and acceptable explanation within a short time," the paper said, "then the members of the Dutch parliamentary delegation that was scheduled to visit Moscow on September 9 "better reconsider their mission to Moscow."

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LUEXMBOURG

"Unbelievable! Awful! USSR Owes World an Explanation!"

Headlines in Luxembourg today included "On 'Anti-War Day' Korean Civilian Airliner Shot Down by Soviets" (Christian Social Luxembourger Wort), "Unbelievable! Awful! USSR Owes the World an Explanation" (Socialist Tageblatt), "The Terrible Incident" (liberal Journal) and "Stupefaction and Indignation! Washington Requires Explanation From Moscow" (independent Republican Lorrain).

Communist Zeitung merely stated that a South Korean Air Lines' Boeing had disappeared. The paper accused Washington of stirring up anti-Soviet propaganda "by telling the world lies about Soviet involvement in the incident."

SWITZERLAND

"Very Worst Thing Soviets Could Have Done"

Conservative Journal de Geneve today held that "even if the airliner had entered Soviet airspace deliberately for spying purposes, it is hard to believe that the higher Soviet military echelons could have coldbloodedly ordered it shot down.

"That would have been the very worst thing the Soviets could have done at a time when they are trying to polish their image...as a peace-loving power."

"No Justification for This Brutal Act"

Bern's middle-of-the-road Der Bund said, "Many aspects of this affair remain a mystery for the moment....Be that as it may, there is no justification for such a brutal act against a civil aircraft..."

BELGIUM

"Deliberate Criminal Act"

Independent Le Soir of Brussels today said it was "a deliberate criminal act. It is hard to see the interest that the Kremlin would have in causing a...dangerous deterioration of the international situation at a time when there is every indication that it is engaged with the Americans in a diplomatic action aimed at improving this situation."

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"Premeditated Murder"

Labor-oriented La Cite of Brussels declared the incident was "a premeditated murder for which there could not be any excuse..."

AUSTRIA

"Tension Is the Cause of It"

In Vienna today, prestigious Die Presse judged, "Tension in East-West relations will not only be a consquence of this unfortunate event. Tension is also the cause of it.

"The readiness to help as shown by Soviet search parties is an ironic twist from people with a guilty conscience."

SPAIN

"Paranoid Soviet Preoccupation With Security"

Barcelona's conservative Vanguardia said in an editorial, "What is difficult to understand is why they shot down a defenseless commercial airplane that was not carrying out any kind of military or espionage mission.

"The only way to explain this dangerous incident is the strange and perhaps paranoid Soviet preoccupation with security."

SOVIET UNION

Pravda: "Soviet Fighters Attempted to Help"

In Moscow today, Pravda, on page five in a two-paragraph item headed "TASS Report" maintained that "Soviet fighters which went to meet the infringing plane, attempted to help it withdraw to a nearby airfield. The infringing plane, however, did not respond to the signals and warnings of Soviet fighters and continued its flight in the direction of the Sea of Japan."

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CZECHOSLOVAKIA

"Violation of Soviet Airspace"

A Czechoslovak news agency report in today's Communist Party Rude Pravo was headed "Violation of Soviet Airspace" and said the plane "of undetermined registration, flying without navigation lights over Kamchatka Peninsula toward the Sea of Japan, did not establish radio contact with the radio engineering service and failed to react to Soviet anti-aircraft defense efforts to give it assistance and guide it to the nearest airport."

The account did not mention that the plane was shot down.

EAST AND SOUTH ASIA

JAPAN

"U.S. Has Reacted Strongly"

Tokyo's NHK, TBS and Fuji television networks gave extensive coverage to the Soviet air attack with some networks carrying special programs. All networks focused attention on the Shultz news conference, and judged that the United States "reacted strongly" to the downing of the plane.

The Attack Will Affect U.S.-Soviet Relations

Fuji television said the incident could adversely affect U.S.-Soviet relations and the nuclear disarmament talks in Geneva.

An NHK correspondent said the incident was expected to cool U.S.-Soviet relations with Congress calling for a firm stand against the Soviet Union. However, he added the view that the United States is not expected to take strong action against the Soviets.

Japan Will Demand Frank and Sincere Response from Soviet Union

All networks reported that Chief Cabinet Secretary Gotoda told a news conference that the Japanese Government came to the conclusion that the KAL plane was shot down by missile fire from a Soviet fighter and that Japan would demand a frank and sincere response from the Soviet Union.

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Press Treatment

All major Tokyo dailies ran bold headlines today saying, "Soviets Shoot Down KAL Plane." Highlights of the Shultz news conference were carried.

"Incident May Have Serious Effect on Far East"

Today's moderate Yomiuri wrote, "Since there were many Japanese passengers on the plane, it is inevitable for the Japanese Government, like the United States, to strongly criticize the Soviet Union.

"There is concern that the incident will have a serious effect on the military and political situation in the Far East, including South Korea which is a direct victim."

"Japan Will Take a Strong Stand"

Liberal Asahi today declared, "The Government will take a strong stand, even if the Soviets contend that the shooting down of the KAL plane was justified in view of the violation of Soviet airspace, because there is no reason to justify the shooting down of an unarmed passenger plane."

"There Should Have Been Other Countermeasures"

An editorial in conservative Sankei today held that "it is easy to recognize the KAL plane as a commercial airliner, and, in considering the large number of passngers aboard, there should have been other counter-measures."

Financial Nihon Keizai said in an editorial, "Even if the airliner erred in its course, the Soviet response is impermissible from the humanitarian point of view."

SOUTH KOREA

Limited Available Treatment

South Korean editorial reaction to the incident was unavailable this morning.

The national YONHAP News Agency reported today that "Foreign Minister Yi Pom-Sok today discussed with U.S. Ambassador to South Korea Richard Walker possible joint sanctions against the Soviet Union in response to a Soviet jet's air attack which downed (the KAL) plane..."

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PHILIPPINES

Major Treatment

Manila's Bulletin Today, Daily Express, and Metro Manila Times lead stories reported on the plane incident. The first named paper cited Pentagon sources and Secretary Shultz as saying that the plane had been downed by a Soviet missile-firing jet.

HONG KONG

"An Indescribably Horrible Act"

Today's center-right Sing Tao Jih Pao condemend the downing of the plane as "an indescribably horrible and inhuman act of violence." It believed that U.S.-Soviet confrontation would probably become "volcanically explosive" and that the situation on the Korean peninsula would heat up.

The paper went on to state that "for the moment Moscow's designs on this are still not known--probably U.S. Congressman McDonald was carrying with him some documents concerning the U.S.-South Korean joint defense pact, which the Soviet Union is eager to read...

"It would be too feeble for the United States to raise the issue before the U.N. Security Council for debate....Much more forceful than appealing to the U.N. (would be) to apply embargo sanctions such as tearing up the newly-concluded five-year grain pact."

"The Soviets' Brutal State of Mind"

Today's independent Ming Pao contended that "this barbarous act of the Soviets without regard for human lives has exposed their coldblooded brutal state of mind..."

Pro-China Paper: "Soviets Should Not Fire Missiles"

Hong Kong's pro-PRC Ta Kung Pao in an editorial today wrote : "The unscrupulous action of the Soviet Union can hardly escape world-wide condemnation...

"Even if the airliner had strayed from its route, it was only a mistaken entry into Soviet airspace. At the most, the Soviet jets could only issue warnings or force it to land. They definitely should not fire missiles. This incident will let the world recognize the reality of stepped-up military expansion."

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"This Act Should Be Condemned"

Today's pro-PRC Wen Wei Po stated that "an attack on a commercial airliner, no matter what excuses are offered, violates international law and practice. And a peremptory attitude toward the peaceful movement of peoples should be condemned by international public opinion."

MALAYSIA

Heavy Media Play Reflects Shock and Anger

A typical frontpage headline in today's Kuala Lumpur papers was "Jumbo Jet Shot Down by Soviets" (conservative New Straits Times). Coverage reflected shock and anger at the downing of the plane.

AUSTRALIA

Extensive Electronic Media Coverage

National radio and television reported that the plane had been shot down and that some passengers were Australian, as well as American. Mid-morning television news ran satellite reports from around the world indicating revulsion of such an act. President Reagan's and Secretary Shultz's statements were carried in full.

"All Civilized Nations Must Press for Clarification"

Today's Melbourne Herald ran a report from various sources and correspondents headed "Horrifying Act--Angry Reagan." A second report headlined "We're Appalled: Hawke" carried Prime Minister Hawke's statement on the incident. Another report in the paper was titled "Pine Gap Heard Soviets--Hayden Calls on Envoy for Explanation."

The paper said in an editorial that "all civilized nations must press for clarification of the circumstances. Even in a world of brinkmanship, this was more than a routine affair. Its consequences could still be most dangerous.

"World opinion will demand that Russia's world of secrecy be breached."

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"USSR Was Within Its Rights"

Today's independent Canberra Times carried a locally written piece headed "USSR Within Its Rights Under Law." The story reportedly said this was not the first time that a South Korean aircraft had strayed over Soviet territory and concluded that the Soviets had "the right to be even more suspicious of an airline which seems to make a habit of it."

THAILAND

"Outrage: World Condemns Russia for Shooting Down Jet"

Bangkok's three major English-language papers today carried prominent front-page accounts of the Soviet destruction of the KAL jet. The Bangkok World's headline read "Outrage: World Condemns Russia for Shooting Down Jet."

The papers included wire service reports of Secretary Shultz's statement and the TASS explanation.

CHINA

"Shock, Regret" Expressed Over Plane Incident

Agence France Presse reported from Beijing that "China today condemned the destruction of the (KAL jet)....'We express our shock and regret at this incident,' the Foreign Ministry's information department said...

"Earlier, the official New China News Agency ran a lengthy and detailed account of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz's news conference in Washington in which he accused Moscow of committing 'an appalling act.'"

SOUTH ASIA

INDIA

"U.S. Alleges Russian Missile Attack"

All media today prominently carried reports on the Soviet attack, highlighting President Reagan's and Secretary of State Shultz's reaction. There was no immediate editorial comment.

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Sample headlines were "South Korean Plane With 269 Shot Down by Soviets: Sharp Reaction by U.S" (largest-circulation Indian Express), "South Korean Boeing With 269 Aboard Shot Down Over Russia" (respected Statesman) and "U.S. Alleges Russian Missile Attack: South Korean Jet With 269 Aboard Shot Down" (influential Times of India).

SRI LANKA

Wire Service Coverage

All leading Colombo papers, both English and vernacular, and the Government-owned radio prominently carried wire service reports today including a Reuter dispatch from Washington covering the Shultz news conference yesterday.

BANGLADESH

"Soviet Pilot Admits Firing Missile"

Today's independent Ittefaq of Dhaka reported the plane incident under the six-column head "Soviet MIGs Killed 269 Passsengers of a Korean Aircraft." The Government-controlled Bangladesh Observer headlined "South Korean Plane Shot Down: Soviet Pilot Admits Firing Missile."

The latter paper quoted extensively from the Secretary of State's news conference citing the Voice of America as its source.

MIDDLE EAST

ISRAEL

News Reports But No Comment

All media today front-paged without comment statements by President Reagan and Secretary Shultz, terming the act as a "barbaric crime."

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JORDAN

Prominent News Attention

Amman media this morning gave major coverage to wire service reports on the KAL incident.

AFRICA

KENYA

Early Wire Reports

All three Nairobi dailies today carried news items on the downing of the plane based on early wire service reports. The independent Nation headed an AP report "Soviet Jet Shoots Down Korean Plane." The independent Standard headlined a Reuters report "Airliner Was 'Shot Down.'"

LESOTHO

Radio Coverage of Reagan, Shultz Statements

Radio Lesotho this morning ran President Reagan's and Secretary Shultz's reactions to the Soviet shooting down of the South Korean passenger plane.

LIBERIA

"A Reckless and Barbaric Act"

Monrovia's Observer today reported that President Reagan had demanded an"immediate and full explanation" of the incident. It also cited Secretary Shultz's reaction.

In an editorial headed "A Reckless and Barbaric Act," the paper stressed that the "frightening" incident raised serious questions about commercial air travel, adding that the attention of the International Civil Aviation Organization should be drawn to danger zones such as those peppered with Soviet missiles and other "sensitive military" installations so that new routes may be located.

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It asked, "What kind of world are we living in if we cannot trust each other? What good is technology today when we instantly can track down an intruder, but instead of leading him to safety we, like barbarians, shoot him down?"

The paper said the attack was "totally inexcusable and constitutes a reckless act by a superpower...for such incidents can ignite the nuclear fuse and plunge the world into cataclysmic maelstrom."

LATIN AMERICA

Media reaction from Latin American capitals to the KAL incident was unavailable this morning.

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